

POTWIN POST



Volume 19, Issue 4
www.potwinprestopeka.org

April 2008

Reflections

An Ancient Prayer

God of our life, there are days when the burdens we carry chafe our shoulders and weigh us down; when the road seems dreary and endless, the skies gray and threatening; when our lives have no music in them, and our hearts are lonely, and our souls have lost their courage. Flood the path with light, we beseech Thee; turn our eyes to where the skies are full of promise; tune our hearts to brave music; give us the sense of comradeship with heroes and saints of every age; and so quicken our spirits that we may be able to encourage the souls of all who journey with us on the road of life, to Thy honor and glory.

-Saint Augustine

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Quotes of the Month

- "The strength of a country is the strength of its religious convictions."
—Calvin Coolidge
- "It is important that people know what you stand for. It's equally important that they know what you won't stand for."
—Mary Waldrop

Caring & Sharing

In the hospital in the month of March

Montie Bayless

Attention all Graduates and families of graduates!!! In the May Potwin Post we want to honor and congratulate the graduates of 2008 from middle school, high school, college or trade/technical school. Please submit the name, school and other pertinent information of the graduate to the church office **no later than April 27th**. Thank you!



Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your cards, thoughts and prayers during my illness. I am at home recuperating now. It is slow going, but Howard is a good caregiver.

Bless you,

Dorothy Tudhope

Families to Pray for this month...

April 6th – Carl & Marguerite Fyler
Linda Tuller and family

April 13th – Louise Graves and family
Don & Lois Walters

April 20th – Janet Halloran and family
Ron Whitmire and family

April 27th – Brian & Mary (Halloran) Breitenstein and family

Activities & Information

The folks at St. Andrews invite you to join us in one of our mission projects. We serve dinner at the Topeka Rescue Mission on the fourth Sunday of every month from 4:00pm – 5:30pm. No cooking involved, just serving. Please pick a month you would like to help serve and call Dianne Deuser at 246-0983. We promise to put you with “experienced help”.

We think your rewards will be great and what better way to get to know each other than by doing God’s work together.

Report from the Treasurer

February receipts - \$6,348.43
February disbursements - \$8,323.98
Balance (as of 2/29/08) \$13,043.61

Reserves

Memorial Fund - \$7,759.16
Cap Improvement/Reserve Fund - \$7,745.67
CD (#5762664) - \$4,200.04
CD (#95658) - \$15,839.59
CD (#75721) - \$5,300.29

Reserve Total \$40,844.75

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

2nd – Session Meeting at 7:00pm (not the 9th)

6th – Holy Communion

12th – Parents Morning Out

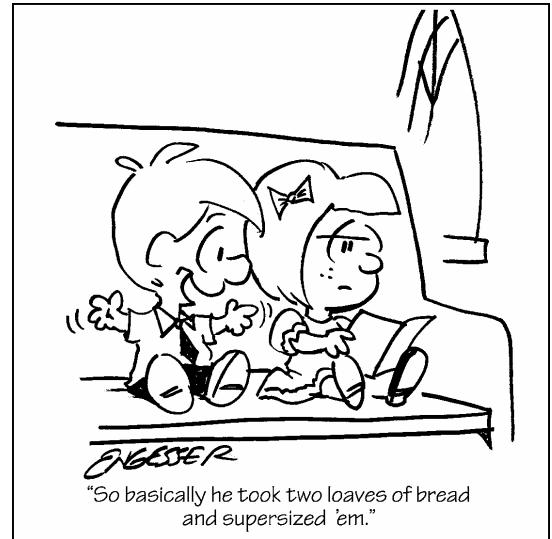
27th – May Potwin Post deadline

Special Dates



- Administrative Professionals Day,
April 23, 2008

This Month's Chuckle



Those serving in the month of April:

Usher: Belva Sandmeyer

Children's Sermons: Gwen Jones (6th)
Linda Tuller (13th)
Janet Halloran (20th)
Pat Abbey (27th)

The **loose change offering** (coins and cash or checks so designated) in the month of April will go to the **One Great Hour of Sharing offering**. Please give liberally.

**The Deadline for the May
Potwin Post is
Sunday, April 27th.**

Potwin Presbyterian Church

400 SW Washburn Avenue
Topeka, KS 66606
(785) 235-1311
www.potwinprestopeka.org

Pastor
LaVonne Meadows, Secretary
David Ohse, Choir Director
Sharon Bayless, Organist
Linda Tuller, Treasurer
Janet Lafferty, Financial Secretary

SESSION

Ross Freeman, Moderator

<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
Gwen Jones	Gary Baker	Don Wright
Hervey Wright	Joyce Black	
	Bob Fincham	

DEACONS

<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
Janet Halloran	Libby Peters	Nellis Shaw
Belva Sandmeyer	Jane Sewell	
Brenda Strobel	Kim Strobel	

SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF

Superintendent	- Gwen Jones
Nursery Attendant	- Betty Bass
Preschool/Grade School	- Gwen Jones
Middle/High School	-
Adults	-
Jr/Sr Hi Youth Group	- Gwen Jones
Substitutes	- Jane Sewell, Ann Fincham
Attendance Clerk	- Janet Halloran, Jane Sewell

SESSIONAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Stewardship & Finance – Gary Baker
Church Life/Worship – Gwen Jones/Hervey Wright
Mission Outreach – Joyce Black
Properties – Bob Fincham/Bob Wright
Christian Education – Gwen Jones
Personnel – Gary Baker

PREACH ★ snack ★

No matter our age, we all have opportunities to "preach" by how we live. And everyone can tell about God and his love. Use this activity to raise money for your church's mission efforts.

What you need:

- Large bowl
- Quart- or snack-size zippered baggies
- Snacks that spell PREACH
Suggestions include:
P = Pretzels
R = Raisins
E = Extra (add extra of your favorite snack)
A = Almonds
C = Chex cereal
H = Honey Nut Cheerios
- 8.5" x 5.5" paper (one sheet for each bag made)
- Crayons or markers
- Stapler
- Stickers

What you do:

1. Mix all your "PREACH" ingredients in a bowl.
2. Fill baggies with the snacks.
3. Fold your paper in half. On one side, write the ingredient acrostic and a Bible verse. For example: "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" (Mark 16:15, NIV).
4. On the other side, write a thank you to the snack's purchaser and mention which activity it's supporting.
5. Staple the paper to the baggie.
6. Decorate baggies with stickers.
7. With adult help, price the baggies and decide when and how to sell them. Afterward, deliver earnings to the appropriate people.



★ EXTRA! EXTRA! ★ READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Many people read their local newspapers, but Jesus says we should read and share God's Word daily! Below, hidden among the words READ YOUR BIBLE, is a message from Jesus recorded in Mark 1:15, NIV. Circle those words and write them on the lines below. (For extra fun, count how many times the word "Bible" appears in the article!)

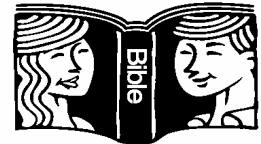
LOCAL EDITION

BIBLE TIMES

TODAY

GOOD NEWS!

READ YOUR BIBLE THE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR
BIBLE TIME HAS READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE
READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE COME READ
YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ
YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE THE
READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE
KINGDOM READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE OF READ YOUR
BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE GOD READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE IS READ YOUR
BIBLE NEAR READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR
BIBLE REPENT READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE AND READ YOUR BIBLE READ
YOUR BIBLE BELIEVE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ
YOUR BIBLE THE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ
YOUR BIBLE GOOD READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ
YOUR BIBLE NEWS READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE.



“ _____

_____ ”

MARK 1:15, NIV

Answers:
"The time has come The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"
Bible: 48 times

Bible Quiz



An Old Testament book reveals some lessons that King Lemuel learned from his mother. One was the following: “Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

Which book contains that quote?

- A. Psalms
- B. Jeremiah
- C. 2 Kings
- D. Proverbs

Answer: D (See chapter 31, verses 8-9.)

Messages & Thoughts

The 10-Foot Rule

Some churches follow the 10-foot rule: When anyone is within 10 feet of another person on church grounds, he or she offers a warm welcome and cheerful greeting.

This rule originated with Wal-Mart founder Sam Walton, who encouraged store employees to look customers in the eye, greet them and ask if they needed help.

As an ambitious college student in Missouri, Walton discovered that “one of the secrets to campus leadership was the simplest thing of all: Speak to people coming down the sidewalk before they speak to you.”

Walton used the person’s name if he knew it. “But even if I didn’t, I would still speak to them,” he said. “Before long, I probably knew more students than anybody in the university, and they recognized me and considered me their friend.”

No sincere welcome is unimportant, even if necessity requires brevity.

Jesus, Forever

Faith may languish; creeds may be changed; churches may be dissolved.

But one cannot imagine the time when Jesus will not be the image of perfection. He can never be superseded. He can never be exceeded.

Religions may come and go, the passing shapes of eternal instinct, but Jesus will remain the standard of the conscience and the satisfaction of our needs, whom all seek and in whom all will yet meet.

—John Watson

Grace

Grace is like getting two more days to complete an assignment even though you’ve goofed off for six weeks and missed the deadline.

Grace is getting another chance even though you haven’t earned it or deserved it.

Grace is God’s unmerited favor, mercy and love, by which we are justified freely.

—Fritz Ridenour

The Investor

Two old friends met one day after many years apart.

One man asked, “How has everything been going with you?”

“Well, I used to be as rich as Bill Gates,” replied the second man.

“Wow! How did you manage that?” asked his stunned friend.

“One day I opened the Bible at random, closed my eyes and dropped my finger on a word. The word was ‘oil.’ So I invested in oil, and boy, did the oil wells gush! Then another day I dropped my finger on a different word in the Bible, and it was ‘gold.’ So I invested in gold, and those mines really produced!”

“Amazing! But you said you ‘used to be as rich as Bill Gates.’”

“Yeah, I lost it all. One day I closed my eyes and pointed at a page. When I opened my eyes, my finger rested on the words ‘Chapter Eleven.’”

March Session Notes

Treasurer's Report: The session reviewed the Treasurer's Report and the Financial Secretary's Reports for February. Receipts reported by Janet Lafferty were \$6,3458.43. Total disbursements reported by Linda Tuller were \$8,323.98, leaving a balance of \$13,043.61 in the general checking account. (This included \$2,621.51 in checks outstanding as of February 28, 2008) The reserve / memorial fund accounts have a total of \$40,844.75. There were no outstanding debts.

Parish Council Report: Reverend Ross reported the Parish Council has \$38,153 in its accounts. The session reviewed the current Parish Budget and monies available. The three churches have agreed to stop further monthly payments to the Parish until later.

The session reviewed St Andrews' and Central's action on the questions directed to the Parish membership at the February 19th meeting regarding the future of the Parish and the concept as merged congregations. The original questions were:

1) Do we, as the governing body of Potwin Presbyterian Church want to continue to move forward in a cooperative relationship with Central Presbyterian Church and St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in exploring a union of either a Parish nature or of a merged nature?

2) If the answer to 1 above is "yes", do we want to move forward with the Parish concept or with the consideration of a merger with Central and St. Andrews?

A) If the answer is "merge", then the following motion needs to be made: Subject to the decision made by the Sessions of Central and St. Andrews, it is moved that the Session of Potwin Presbyterian Church appoint three (3) members to serve on a merger committee to develop a Plan of Union with Central and St. Andrews within the next four months."

B) If the answer is "Parish", then the next move is dependent upon the decision made by the Sessions of Central and St. Andrews.

3) If the answer to 1 above is "no", do we want to withdraw Potwin Presbyterian Church from the Parish in accordance with Article VII.B of the Constitution of the Topeka Presbyterian Parish?

At their meeting on Monday, March 10th, the St. Andrews Session decided they wanted to take the questions in a different order and in a slightly different perspective as indicated by the following three motions: 1. To withdraw from the Parish, and agree to discuss merger possibilities. 2. That Session conduct a congregational survey to determine members' interest in possible merger with two or more churches. 3. If congregational sentiment is positive, we will seat a Merger Exploratory Committee. All three motions passed.

While the first motion included the agreement to discuss merger, it is obvious that such an agreement is subject to a concurring sentiment among the congregation. They plan on having an informational meeting with the congregation on April 7th at the end of which they will distribute a questionnaire.

At its meeting on March 11th, the Central Session adopted the following motions: 1. For Central Presbyterian to remain an active member of the Topeka Presbyterian Parish. 2. For Central Presbyterian to proceed with exploring the possibility of a merger with Potwin Presbyterian, St. Andrews Presbyterian, and/or any other interested parties. These motions passed unanimously.

Several questions arose based on these actions: 1. Can St Andrews withdraw their money from the Parish Council? Upon review of the constitution, it appears no. 2. If there is a merged church, would there be a new building? Yes. 3. Are there other Presbyterian Churches in Shawnee County who are interested in a possible merge? Yes.

The following motions were presented to the session for discussion and voting:

1) Bob Fincham moved and Hervey Wright seconded a motion to remain members of the Parish. This was approved unanimously.

2) Bob Fincham moved and Don Wright seconded a motion to explore a move toward the possibility of a merger with the other Parish Council members and any other interested parties. This was approved unanimously.

3) Bob Fincham moved and Gwen Jones seconded a motion to appoint 3 members to sit on the committee to explore the possibility of a merger. This was approved unanimously. Gwen Jones, Bob Fincham and Gary Baker volunteered to sit on the committee. Hervey Wright volunteered to be an alternative.

The session also encouraged Reverend Freeman to contact the moderator for the Parish Council to set up a meeting as soon as possible to proceed on these matters. The Session also wanted to thank Reverend Freeman for "carrying the flag" and working with the churches toward a successful resolution for each church.

Action on Membership: None

Clerk of Session: Reverend Freeman reported on the two banners in the library. These were created back in 1985, and have traveled to Washington, DC and various other states and are now back home.

A note from Reverend Gannaway was sent around thanking the church for their gift to the Theological Education Fund.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship and Finance Committee: They decided to put \$20,000 into a CD and are currently trying to decide on the best interest rate.

Personnel Committee: LaVonne Meadows will be taking two days off next week to be with her children over Spring Break.

Christian Education Committee: They are planning an Easter egg hunt for Easter Sunday.

Church Life/Worship Committee: 1) The Agape Feast will be March 20th at 6:30. St Andrews will be attending. Because communion will be served Reverend Freeman indicated he would contact Reverend Gannaway to be moderator. 2) The flowers will be ordered this week. 3) Central will host the 5th Sunday combined worship service on March 30th. A potluck dinner will follow. 4) Communion was held March 9th.

Mission Outreach: The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering is in full swing.

Properties: There will be a church cleanup March 15th starting at 9:30.

Instigator Task Force: There were 15 children and 4 helpers at the last Parents Morning Out.

Pastor's Report: Reverend Freeman will be going on a trip the first part of April.

Other Important Dates: Bridal Shower for Kim Strobel in Memorial Hall March 15th, Good Friday service at St Andrews at 7:00 pm on March 21st, Private wedding on March 22nd

Unfinished Business: Gary Baker reported he is working on finding someone to provide pastoral care to the congregation. It was suggested to contact PNK for a job description. Central has notified Potwin they would like to participate in this as well.



Thank you Easter Flower Donors!



Harriet Keith (1)

John & Belva Sandmeyer (1)

Ruth Wilkin – In memory of Don & Susan Wilkin

Libby Peters (2) – In honor of Priscilla & Sherry Peters

Steve & Joyce Black (2) – In memory of Roy & Kay Huhn

Bob & Ann Fincham (1) – In memory of Jessie / in honor of Ethan, Lindsey & Elizabeth

Mark & Debi Harvey (2) – In memory of Nathan, Grandma Pearl, Grandma Loma, Maggie & Trina
and in celebration of Brandon, Shannon, Emma & Lily

Janet Halloran (6) – In memory of

Husband, Father, Grandfather: Robert P. Halloran

Parents: Thomas M. & Mabel D. Halloran

Brothers: John, Tom, Pat Halloran & Dugan O’Halloran

Nephews: Tony Roderick & Douglas Edwards

Sisters: Margaret Newlin, Mabel Roderick, Elizabeth Edwards, Jo Halloran

Nieces: Cynthia Custer & Jeannie Baldwin

Lectionary Readings for April

April 6 – Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; I Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

April 13 – Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; I Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

April 20 – Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; I Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

April 27 – Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; I Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21



**POTWIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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